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Please amend claims 6 and 9 as follows:

*12/1*  
*B* ~~5~~ 6 (Amended) A cigarette rod product with a lit end and a filter end comprising a rod of tobacco wrapped in cigarette paper, the lit end having a densified region of a first longitudinal length, the filter end having a densified region of a second longitudinal length, the first longitudinal length being greater than the second longitudinal length, wherein the densified region of the lit end is of greater density than that of the filter end and the densities of the densified regions of both the lit and filter ends are greater than the density of the tobacco rod between the densified regions of the lit end and the filter end.

*12/1*  
*B* ~~7~~ 9 (Amended) A cigarette rod product comprising a rod of tobacco wrapped in cigarette paper and having first and second ends, the first end having a densified region of a first longitudinal length, the second end having a densified region of a second longitudinal length, the first longitudinal length being greater than the second longitudinal length, wherein the densified region of the first end is of greater density than that of the second end and the densities of the densified regions of both the first and second ends are greater than the density of the tobacco rod between the densified regions of the first and second ends.

#### REMARKS

Further and favorable consideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Amended Claim 6 contains the subject matter of as-filed Claims 5 and 6. Amended Claim 9 contains the subject matter of as-filed Claims 8 and 9. Accordingly, Claims 5 and 8 have been cancelled. No new matter has been added by this amendment. Upon entry of this amendment, the pending Claims will be 1-4, 6, 7, 9 and 10.